

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

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Action
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FROM: BONN
TO: Secretary of State

NO: 1045, NOVEMBER 17, 1 PM

NIACT

SENT DEPARTMENT NIACT 1045, REPEATED INFORMATION BERLIN
NIACT 275.

REFERENCE BERLIN'S 346 TO DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT'S 1007.

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1. I TEND AGREE VIEW EXPRESSED USAREUR'S UNN TEL NOVEMBER 15 THAT TRUCK INCIDENT DELIBERATELY PLANNED BY SOVIETS AS TEST FIRMNESS OUR POSITION IN LIGHT KHRUSHCHEV SPEECH. I NEVERTHELESS CONCUR FINAL PARAGRAPH BERLIN'S 346 THAT OUR PROMPT AND STRONG REACTION TO NOVEMBER 14 INCIDENT AMPLY DEMONSTRATED THAT WE DO NOT RPT NOT INTEND YIELD TO SOVIETS ON INSPECTION ISSUE. I MOREOVER FULLY ENDORSE BERLIN'S VIEW THAT AT LEAST FOR TIME BEING THERE MORE TO BE GAINED BY REMAINING STEADFAST AND REACTING FIRMLY TO ANY SOVIET OR GDR PRESSURES AS THEY MAY DEVELOP THAN BY SEEKING TO PROBE THEIR INTENTIONS BY ACTIONS SUCH AS THAT PROPOSED USCINCEUR'S EC 9-6071.

2. IF ANY SUCH ACTION ENVISAGED I BELIEVE IT SHOULD BE CO-ORDINATED WITH BRITISH AND FRENCH AND CONSIDERATION GIVEN TO "TEST" BEING MADE NEXT BY BRITISH OR FRENCH TRUCK INSTEAD OF US, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW SHILOV ALLEGATION (USCINCEUR'S EC 9-6071) THAT ONLY DIFFICULTIES ARE WITH US, NONE WITH BRITISH OR FRENCH. IN ANY EVENT, ALTHOUGH I FULLY AGREE WE SHOULD CONTINUE ATTEMPT SENDING COVERED TRUCKS, IT SEEMS TO ME PREFERABLE FOR TIME BEING SEND ONLY OPEN OR PARTIALLY COVERED TRUCKS WHICH APPARENTLY GO THROUGH WITHOUT DIFFICULTY.

PERMANENT

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3. ALTHOUGH I AGREE DESIRABILITY KEEPING NATO INFORMED IN GENERAL OF BERLIN DEVELOPMENTS DURING THIS SOMEWHAT UNCERTAIN PERIOD, I DO NOT REPEAT NOT CONSIDER PRACTICABLE OR ADVISABLE TO CONSULT NATO IN ADVANCE ON ACTION TO BE TAKEN AS RESULT INCIDENTS SUCH AS THAT NOVEMBER 14 (PARIS 1316 TO DEPARTMENT). BERLIN OPERATION IS ESSENTIALLY TRIPARTITE ONE AND WHILE COMPLETE TRIPARTITE COORDINATION OF PRIME IMPORTANCE I BELIEVE WE WOULD NEEDLESSLY COMPLICATE MATTERS, AND RISK POSSIBILITY OF IN-ADVERTENT LEAKS, IF WE ATTEMPTED CONSULT IN ADVANCE ON LOCAL ACTION WITH REPRESENTATIVES TWELVE OTHER COUNTRIES, MOST OF WHOM UNFAMILIAR WITH DETAILS BERLIN SITUATION. REGARDING ADVANCE CONSULTATION WITH GERMANS, I STRONGLY RECOMMEND THIS BE LEFT TO DISCRETION THREE EMBASSIES HERE.

TRIMBLE

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